

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2. Why lies he in such mean - es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3. So bring him in - cens - gold and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him;

Whom an - gels greet with an - ti - me shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ner's sake the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is the Babe of Bethlehem, the Babe whom an - gels sing:
 Nails, spear, spear, the Babe whom shepherds find, me, for you:
 Raise, raise the Babe whom kings adore, the Babe whom ev - ery heart ad - mire:
 lul - la - by:

haste, haste to bring the Babe, the son of Mar - y.
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the son of Mar - y.
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the son of Mar - y.

Songs of the Season
 Fourth Sunday in Advent
 December 22, 2024

WELCOME

We are glad you could join us! We would love to connect with you and answer any questions you may have about Trinity. Scan below with your phone camera to leave us your contact information.



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WORSHIPING THE GOD OF JOY

(Children of all ages are welcome in our worship service, but if your family needs a break from the sanctuary or wants to move around, our family overflow room with toys is available in room 111.)

Nursery Volunteers (worship service): Michelle Goldstein, Ruth Harlow, Kenna Marcus, Nora Williamson

Liturgist: Mitchell Dixon

Scripture Reader: Kathy O'Neal

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Pablo Rosales

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Missions Moment

Quotes and Reflection

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. — Colossians 1:15-20

"If Jesus Christ is not truly God, how could he help us? If he is not truly man, how could he understand us?" — Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Christ uncrowned himself to crown us, and put off his robes to to put on our rags."
— W. Dyer

Devotional Preparation

The Christmas Miracle of the Incarnation of the Omnipresent Word

Jared c. Wilson, The Gospel Coalition: December 22, 2017

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. — Hebrews 13:8

Every year at this time as we celebrate the birth of baby Jesus to the virgin Mary, I don't suppose it occurs to too many merrymakers that what they're really celebrating is the incarnation. All of the other miracles are in service of that central miracle: God became man. And in becoming, through spiritual conception, the man Jesus of Nazareth, the Word of God did not cease to be God. Baby Jesus, from the moment of conception to the straw habitation of the manger, was fully God and fully man. That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.

When we put our minds long to the idea of Jesus being 100 percent God and simultaneously 100 percent man, they naturally feel overwhelmed. The orthodox doctrine of the incarnation is compelling, beautiful, biblically sensible, and salvifically necessary, but it is nevertheless utterly inscrutable. And that's okay. In the end, the incarnation is not for analysis but for worship.

But when we read Colossians 2:9—"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily"—the inscrutability of the incarnation widens. The baby Jesus who was wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, was also omnipresent Lord of the universe. Omnipresence is one of God's impassable attributes; God cannot not be omnipresent. So, for Jesus Christ to be God incarnate must not mean he was no longer God omnipresent.

Wait a second, you might say. Didn't Jesus disregard his deity as something to be grasped? Yes, but what Paul is getting at in Philippians 2:5–8 is not that Jesus did not "hold" or "maintain" the fullness of his divinity but that he did not exploit it or leverage it against his experiencing the fullness of humanity. He didn't pull the parachute, in other words.

Instead, what we see in the wonder of the God-Man is a miraculous extension, not reduction. Jesus "made himself nothing" (Phil. 2:7), yes, but this was not a voiding of his essential deity. It is instead an appraisal of the bewilderment of the incarnation. The incarnation posits a self-willed emptying consisting of Jesus's refusal to employ all divine abilities at his disposal, not an emptying that would consist in a subtraction from the Godhead. The alternatives to simultaneous incarnation and omnipresence are a lesser incarnation on one side or a lesser Godhead on the other.

In Calvin's estimation, God's incarnation in Christ was not an exit from heaven so much as a descent, an extension. In his commentary on John's Gospel, he writes, "So Christ, who 'is in heaven,' has clothed himself in our flesh, so that by stretching out his brotherly hand to us he may raise us to heaven with himself."

Let us take this cue from Calvin: *Here is something marvelous!*

This Christmas, let's marvel that the incarnation presents to us the fullness of God in the fullness of man, because it proclaims to us the great big gospel of the fullness of God for the fullness of man.

Song of Preparation

Magnificat

Words by Flo Paris Oakes

♩ = 78 **CHORUS**

D_m C B_b F D_m C B_b F

My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord. My spi - rit re - joi-ces in God.

D_m C B_b F D_m C B_b F

My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord. My spi - rit re - joi-ces in God.

VERSE

D_m C B_b F D_m C B_b F

For He who is migh-ty has done great things for me.

D_m C B_b F D_m C B_b F

Ho-ly ho - ly Ho-ly ho - ly ho-ly ho - ly is His name.

SPLIT

D_m C B_b F D_m C B_b F

For He who is migh - ty has done great things for me.
My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord. My spi - rit re - joi-ces in God.

D_m C B_b F D_m C B_b F

Ho-ly ho - ly Ho - ly ho - ly ho-ly ho - ly is His name.
My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord. My spi - rit re - joi-ces in God.

Call to Worship—Luke 1 (selected)

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

People: For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Leader: His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

People: He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

All: He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

Leader: Now O Lord, come and help us as we celebrate your mercy, even as you have done for your people of old!

WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

*Songs of Adoration

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Words by James Montgomery. Alt. S. McCracken. Music by Music by Sandra McCracken

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Chorus

F/C C F/C C F/C C Am G F/C C

Hail to the Lord's a - nointed great Da - vid's great-er Son! Hail in the

6 F/C C G Am F G F/C C

time ap - pointed, His reign on earth be - gun! His reign on earth be - gun!

Verses

11 F/C C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm

1. He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
2. He comes with com - fort speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong;
3. To give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turned to light,
4. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
5. The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

16 F C/E F C/E G Am F G

to take a - way trans - gres - sion and rule in eq - ui - ty. (vss. 1, 3, 4, 5 to chorus)
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong.
whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in His path to birth.
his name shall stand for - ev - er, that name to us is Love.

Jesus What A Wonderful Child

Arr. by Sandra McCracken

CHORUS

$\text{♩} = 104$ D G7 D A7
Swing eighths

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh what a won - der - ful child.

5 D Bm7 E7 A7 D

Je - sus, Je - sus, so low - ly, meek and mild. New life, new hope to

10 D7 G G#°7 D/A A7

all He brings. Won't you lis - ten to the an - gels sing glo - ry, glo - ry,

VERSE

14 D Em7 D/F# G D/A A7 D A7 D A7 D

glo - ry to the new - born King. King. It was her - ald - ed by the an -

19 G7 D A7 D

gels, born in a low - ly man - ger. The vir - gin Mar - y cho - sen as

23 Bm7 E7 A7 D

His moth - er, and Jo - seph, was His earth - ly fa - ther. Three wise men came from a - far,

27 D7 G G#°7 D/A A7
 they were guid - ed by a shin - ing star, to see the ba - by

CHORUS

31 D Em7 D/F# G D/A A7 D A7 D
 where He lay in a man - ger filled with hay. Je - sus, Je - sus,

36 G7 D A7 D Bm7 E7
 oh what a won - der - ful child. Je - sus, Je - sus, so low - ly, meek and

41 A7 D D7 G G#°7
 mild. New life, new hope to all He brings. Won't you lis - ten to the an - gels sing

INSTRUMENTAL

46 D/A A7 D Em7 D/F# G D/A A7 D A7 D D7
 glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry to the new - born King.

TAG

52 G7 D Bm7 E7 A7 D
 New life, new hope to

59 D7 G G#°7 D/A A7
 all He brings. Won't you lis - ten to the an - gels sing glo - ry, glo - ry,

63 D Em7 D/F# G D/A A7 D A7 D Em7 D/F# G
 glo - ry to the new - born King. Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry to the
 D/A A7 D A D Em7 D/F# G D/A A7 D
 N.C.

68
 new - born King. Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry to the new - born King.

***Prayer of Adoration**

WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

New Testament Reading—Luke 1:39-45

Mary Visits Elizabeth

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Reader: The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever!

People: Thanks be to God!

WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD

Call to Confession—Hebrews 10:5-6

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure."

Silent Confession and Lament

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—Heb. 10:9-10

"Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Leader: Christian, give thanks to God for saving us through the sacrifice of Christ!

People: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Now may the peace of Christ be with you all!

People: And also with you!

***Song of Rejoicing**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
Trinity Hymnal #224

Children's Sermon

"Joy"
Rev. Tim Jackson

WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

Pastoral Prayer



Tithes and Offerings

Children ages 3 (by July 31) through 1st grade are dismissed for Children's Church to Room 106B

If you would like to give your tithe online, scan your camera phone here:



Offertory Song (Ensemble)

What Child Is This

Chris Tomlin, William Chatterton Dix. Arr. by San Galbraith and Jared Haschek

Sermon

"What Child Is This"

Sermon Series, Songs of the Season

Luke 2:8-11

Rev. Dr. Chris Polski

***Song of Response**

What Child Is This
Trinity Hymnal #213

***Benediction**

*If you would like a time of prayer with one of our elders,
please come to the front of the sanctuary after the service.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

No Sunday school classes today. We will resume in January.

Visitors: If you are visiting with us today we would love to give you a small gift. Please stop by the Welcome Table so we can say "hello."

Volunteers today: Ushers: Schaffer, Schlitt, Thomason, Kocher. Nursery: Goldstein, Harlow, Marcus, Williamson. CC: Doiron, Hawley, Williamson. **Next Sunday:** Ushers: Thomason, Heintz, Standerfer, Younger. Nursery: Schmidts, Broughton, Schlitt.

The **Wednesday women's Bible studies** will resume on Jan. 22nd. This semester we will be studying Colossians.

Trinity Young Adults meets at 7 pm on the 1st and 3rd Mon. of the month. See Mitchell Dixon for more info.

Youth Ministry Parent's Meeting: Jan. 5th following SS.
Winter Retreat: Everlasting Hope: January 17-19 for both Jr. & Sr. High.

Thank you to everyone who provided Christmas gifts to the Mission Gate Ministry families!

One of the roles of our diaconate is to care for those who are in need of help. Sometimes that means financial assistance or help with food or gas. The **Advent Giving Tree** in the narthex has tags for those who want to come along side the deacons by making a donation.

Our candlelight **Christmas Eve service will be at 5pm.** There is no nursery for this service, but we would love your little ones to join us.

Year End Giving: Thank you for your tithes and offerings this past year. If you have a desire to provide stock to be used for 2024 contributions or any other method, please be sure that this is sent to the church office prior to Dec. 31. If you have any questions see Duncan Highmark.

Hope for Tomorrow Campaign- Our campaign to eliminate our debt and move to position the church to advance our outreach ministries has begun. We are 80% towards our goal. Please complete the pledge card in the chair in front of you and leave in the offering plate. Thank you for your participation.

Sunday snacks are always appreciated and needed. See your weekly email to sign up or the QR code on the snack table.

If you do not receive our **weekly email updates** on Tuesday mornings, please send your email address to amy.mitchell@trinitychurchkirkwood.org

There are **several easy ways to serve at Trinity.** Feel free to reach out to these ministry coordinators to get involved:

Ushers: Paul Schaffer:

Paul.Schaffer@trinitychurchkirkwood.org,

Greeters: James Broughton (James.Broughton@trinitychurchkirkwood.org),

Children's Ministry: Melissa Kocher (Melissa.Kocher@trinitychurchkirkwood.org)

Did you know you can use the **Church Center app** for online giving, church directory, to sign up for events, connect with your small groups, bible studies, etc? Contact the church office for assistance.

You can **sign up for all upcoming events** by scanning your phone camera over the QR code and then [following the link:](#)



CHURCH PLANTING VISION WEEKEND

Join us for a weekend seminar on church planting. We will learn about why we are committed to planting new churches, what it means to plant a church, as well as exploring different methods and ways to be involved. Finally, we will learn how the whole congregation can be engaged in the process. Leading this seminar will be veteran church planter and Director of the Midwest Alliance, Rev. Ted Powers.

This weekend is intended for the whole congregation - whether you're interested in being a part of the church plant or will remain at the mother church. Register using the QR code above. If childcare is needed see Tim Jackson.

MISSION UPDATE

ALL the links mentioned below can be found using this QR code:



Prayers: Scan the QR link for the last Newsletter and Prayer Calendar of 2024:

Goers:

- **Mission Gate Fort Good Shepherd** — Fort Good Shepherd Ranch of Mission Gate sits on the banks of the Meramec River. It is a 54-bed facility for men re-entering society from prison. It occupies 130 acres, with five large homes and individual cabins. In November, the river overflowed and flooded 14 cabins. The force of the water carried a 500-gallon propane tank, a picnic table, and railroad ties, down river. Mission Gate asked for volunteers to help with building projects at Fort Good Shepherd in Cuba, MO. Chuck Barker will be coordinating a Saturday Serve Day on January 11th. **More information and sign up via QR Code above.**

Senders:

The work of Mission at Trinity Church cannot happen without your prayerful giving. This year you have helped support several missionaries and ministries through St. Louis and the World. **Please come by Pastor Pablo's office to see a white tapestry that was sent by one of our missionaries in the middle east. It's hanging on the wall.**

Welcomers:

Mission Gate Christmas Angels — Thank you to all who participated in this year's gift giving to provide Christmas gifts to children with an incarcerated parent and children of local needy families. Gifts will be distributed to children ages infant to 16 years during a party at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church on Monday, December 18th. Please continue to pray for the children and families supported by Mission Gate.

Mobilizers:

Please thank your **Mission Committee** members (Ellie Perry, Kenna Marcus, Tom Schmidt, Tim Jackson), **Local National Missions Subcommittee** members (Tim Jackson (Chair), Karla Kuntze, Allen Mathieu, Chuck Barker, and Jackson Roberts), and **Global Missions Subcommittee** members (Tom Schmidt (Chair), Mimi Steele, Becky Givens, Susie Shah, Andrew Kwong, Andy Williamson and Mary Berardi).

With a heart for the mission of God, they have volunteered several hours this year to help Trinity share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and Ends of the Earth. If you would like to join this team, please contact Pastor Pablo.



Trinity's ministries are organized around the core values in our purpose statement which reads: Trinity Church exists to **exalt** God's name, **establish** God's people, **equip** God's church and **engage** God's world, in the power of the Holy Spirit and for the sake of the Risen King, Jesus Christ.

www.trinitychurchkirkwood.org